

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Kindly add the following paragraphs, on page 12 after line 11:

One example described in the "Expandable Element" application is as follows. An aspect of some preferred embodiments of the invention relates to a tissue excavation tool, especially for disc removal. In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the tool comprises an elongate member having at the end thereof an expandable portion comprising a plurality of spikes. The tool may be inserted into the spine at a small diameter and the spikes are then extended. Tissue excavation is preferably performed by rotating the tool, so the spikes disintegrate the disc tissue. Preferably, the tool is hollow so the disintegrated tissue may be vacuumed out of the intra-verbal space. Alternatively or additionally, the tool may be bent, to reach locations out of line with from the entry point of the tool. Alternatively or additionally, a stylet is inserted into a hollow of the tool, to guide it to various locations in the inter-vertebral space. The tool is preferably formed of metal, however, it may be formed of other materials, for example plastic. The rotational speed of the tool may be, low, for example 100 RPM or high, for example 3000 RPM. In some embodiments the spikes have sharpened edges, while in other embodiments such sharpened edges are not required and/or not provided.

Another example described in the "Expandable Element" application is that alternatively or additionally, the material of the spacer may comprise Nitinol (NITI), Titanium, Surgical Stainless Steel, plastic, composite and/or various alloys, such as bio-inert metal alloys.